Mahwish Malik.

QUESTION

Discuss in detail the impact and the background of the Glorious Revolution in England?

INTRODUCTION TO GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

The year 1688 is a great landmark in the history of England. The struggle between King and Parliament ended in the victory of the latter. The sacrifices of the people had borne fruit and in future they were to have a government in which they had a say. The Glorious Revolution also called "The Revolution of 1688" and "The Bloodless Revolution" took place from 1688 to 1689 in England. It involved the overthrow of the Catholic King, James II, who was replaced by his Protestant daughter and her husband William of Orange

BACKGROUND OF THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION : CAUSES OF REVOLUTION

There occured a revolution in England in 1688 A.D which was peaceful in nature but had a great significance.

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As a result Rule of Law was established at the place of despotic rule. The causes that led to the Glorious Revolution are as follows:

(a) Efforts by James II to restore Catholic Ascendency in England

James II was prepared to sacrifice even his throne for the sake of his religion. His ~~faith~~ Catholic faith was somewhat tolerable to the people but his efforts to convert the people to his own belief forcefully was highly undesirable. The Whig also could not like his soft attitude towards the Catholic faith particularly the forcible conversion of the masses.

b) Birth of James II's son

The event that turned dissent into a crisis was the birth of James's son. When his wife Queen Mary of Modena, gave birth to a son it was feared that the new Prince would be brought up as a Catholic and people will be dominated by Papists forever.

c) Efforts to repeal the Test Act

The Test Act was a great eye

sore for James II as it mentioned that those who did not believe in the Anglican Church could not be appointed either in the Church or in the government offices. It was a great hurdle for James as he could not make any appointment of the Catholics. He ordered the Parliament to repeal the Act but on its refusal he did away with the Parliament causing conflict.

(d) Establishment of the Court of Ecclesiastical Commission.

James restored the prerogative court but with a changed name i.e. Court of Ecclesiastical Commission, inorder to pursue his religious aim and make a forceful admittance of the people of his religion. Anybody who dared to oppose James' Catholic faith was tried by these courts and were punished.

e) Interference in the internal affairs of the Universities

James wanted that Universities should bring forth Catholic minded people. To achieve that end, he started appointing

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Catholic teachers in the Oxford and Cambridge universities. He dismissed Sir Isaac Newton, the VC of the Cambridge University due to the same religious reason.

(f) Cruel treatment of James II with his enemies

James was cruel at giving punishments and the Duke of Marmouth and Duke of Argull revolted against these atrocities.

g) Declaration of Indulgence

In 1687, James proclaimed the Declaration of Indulgence for the welfare of the Catholics and all restriction upon the Catholics were removed. The Protestants, greatly resented the policy.

h) Friendship with France

Louis XIV, the French King, was an enemy of England. He was tyrant to Protestant views and supported Catholic ideas. People of England disliked him but James II began to establish friendly relations with him.

i) Discontentment in Scotland and Ireland

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Both Scotland and Ireland were under England but James made them his enemies by his obstinacy. He committed atrocities upon the Protestants of Scotland.

j) Difficulties of William

The circumstances compelled the people of England to invite his daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange to come over to England with his army. It is a common belief of the historians that the revolution would not have possible if William had not needed the help of England against enemy Louis XIV.

IMPACTS OF THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

The Glorious Revolution has ever lasting effects. The impacts of the revolution are described as follows:

a) End of the Divine Right of King and success of the people

The Revolution established the right of the people to elect and dismiss a king.

b) Supremacy of the Parliament

The struggle between the

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King and the Parliament, which started with the accession of James I, lasted till the end of the Stuart Dynasty. The Revolution of 1688 decided the issue which even the civil war of 1642-49 failed to do. Earlier, the Parliament was a puppet at the hands of King.

c) **Establishment of the Constitutional Government in place of the Despotic Rule**

The Revolution gave a death blow to despotism and introduced an era of constitutionalism. The King lost his right of dispensing with and suspending of the laws.

d) **Independence of the judiciary was established**

The judges became free of the King's control. All their rights were safe-guarded and with the passage of time their salaries were fixed.

e) **The fate of Roman Catholicism was doomed forever in England**

James II repealed and violated the laws of the land in order

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to facilitate the Catholics. But, his failure proved failure of Catholicism

f) Period of religious toleration

The Revolution settled the controversy over religion and the era of religious toleration began. Complete religious toleration was granted in 1689 by the Act of Toleration.

g) England became a first-rate European power

England had lost its prestige at the hands of Charles II and James II because they sold their foreign policy to the French monarch Louis XIV. But with the accession of William, France suffered a defeat. By the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697, France had to accept the kingship of William. England regained the prestige.

h) England was forced to take part in the European politics

William had accepted the throne of England in order to take help against Louis XIV of France

In order to save Holland he entangled. England in European politics. France and Holland were in bitter relations for more than a hundred years.

CONCLUSION

The Revolution of 1688 is called a Glorious one because it had a significant impact on England without any bloodshed and was based on consent and compromise. Among all the significant impact, the most notable was the enhancement of the prestige of England.

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QUESTION

Why is Hannoverian succession considered the predecessor of parliamentary supremacy in England?

INTRODUCTION TO HANNOVERIAN SUCCESSION

The succession of Hannoverian Dynasty on the throne of England in 1714 AD is considered to be an event of great historical significance, both in political and constitutional development of England. Hence, it is considered to be the predecessor of parliamentary supremacy in England.

A PREDECESSOR OF PALIAMENTARY SUPREMACY : CONSTITUTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hanoverian had a great constitutional significance.

a) End of the Divine Right of King and Hereditary Monarchy

In 1714, when the Parliament made a German King of foreign origin, it became clear that the hereditary claim and the theory of

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Divine Right had no place in England. It is said that there were about 57 claimants in 1714 who had a better claim to the throne of England than that of George I.

b) Increase in the Powers and the duration of the Parliament

The succession of the Hanoverian kings greatly enhanced the rights and powers of the Parliament. The Act of Parliament i.e by the Act of Settlement of George I empowered the Parliament. Queen Anne had tried to repeal this Act because she was in the favour of Stuarts.

Secondly, George I and II were foreigners and did not knew much about England and English language and left matters at the hands of parliament. This indirectly enhanced the powers of the Parliament. In 1694, the Triennial Act had fixed the duration of the Parliament for 3 years.

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but in the Septennial Act this period was increased to 7 years.

c) Foundation of the Party System of government was further strengthened

The succession of Hanoverians created a great tension between the Whigs and the Tory parties. Whigs supported the Hanoverian king but Tories bitterly opposed him. When George I became the king, Whigs did not allow any share to the Tories in government.

d) George I and II neither knew the English language nor they were interested in English politics

The lack of knowledge of George I and II allowed great liberty to the Whig ministers. The Whig ministers by and by became independent of the king. Hence, Hanoverian kings developed the Cabinet System in England.

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e) Office of Prime Minister was established

George I and George II absented themselves from the meetings of the Cabinet because they could not understand the discussions in the Parliament. So, George I appointed the ablest of his ministers as the ~~Cabinet~~ Chairman of the Cabinet meetings, who later on became known as Prime Minister.

A PREDECESSOR OF PARLIAMENTARY SUPREMACY: POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The political significance of the accession of the Hanoverian Kings is vivid from the following:

a) England dragged in the European politics

George I spent half the time in England and half in Hanover. He had concern for the safety of Hanover. It was only for the protection of Hanover that England fought the War of Austrian Succession from 1744 to 1748. George II led

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the army to Europe and when Pitt the Elder ignored Hanover during the Seven Years' War, George II removed him from his office.

b) Revolts of Jacobites

The two Jacobite revolt of 1715 and 1745 were a result of Hanoverian succession. The main objective of these revolts was to overthrow the Hanoverian kings in order to restore the Stuart kings. The supporters of the Stuart kings were called Jacobites. As a result, the Tory Party was much degraded, the Hanoverian kings became popular and Jacobites were blessing.

c) Supremacy of the Whigs

The Tory Party always opposed the Hanoverian kings. So, the Hanoverian kings tried to suppress the Tory Party and favoured the Whig leaders by allowing them complete control of the administration. Whig party established its supremacy during the reign of George I and George II.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The accession of Hanoverian kings had other general and religious importance. During 17th century the church supported the Divine Right Theory of Kingship and their hereditary succession.

CONCLUSION

The Hanoverian succession had had much constitutional and political significance. This resulted in supremacy of the Parliament making the Whig party supreme.

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QUESTION

How did Robert Walpole help the Whig party establish supremacy? Discuss merits and demerits of Whig Oligarchy.

INTRODUCTION

Sir Robert Walpole was a great and important figure of his times. He was perhaps the first Prime Minister of Britain who was appointed to this high post in 1721. He had the credit of developing the Cabinet System of Government in England. He is also regared for helping the Whig party establish supremacy. It was due to his character and ~~(plus)~~ policies

ROBERT WALPOLE HELPED THE WHIG PARTY ESTABLISH SUPREMACY

With his character and policies he helped the Whig party's supremacy

1) Character of Walpole

a) He as a staunch Whig

~~(Walpole)~~ Walpole was

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a sincere follower of his party and was always on the look out for increasing the power of his party. He did not appoint comparatively able people under him so that no one should oppose him in his affairs. He managed to maintain his party's power in the cabinet as well as in the Parliament. He could understand a man's nature and his weaknesses and as such he proved to be a great organiser of his party. He is generally described as the 'Drill Sergeant' of his party.

MERITS AND DEMERITS OF THE WHIG ASCENDANCY (Whig Oligarchy)

The Whig Party had established its supremacy in England from 1714 to 1760. This period is called the 'Golden Age of the Whigs'.

MERITS OF WHIG OLIGARCHY

a) End of the Despotism of the Kings

The Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement which decided once for all that the Parliament or the public were the actual King-makers. The theory of the Divine Right of Kings was gone one for all.

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b) Establishment of Fully Democratic Government

George I because of his ignorance of the English language, stopped attending the meetings of the ministers. So, the most influential minister took his place in the meeting and thus was created the post of the Prime Minister. He began to form his ministry form his own party members. In this way the Party System of Government came into being. Thus, under the Whigs many fundamental principles of the Cabinet System were formed.

c) Freedom of Religious Thought

The Whig party established the freedom of religious thoughts. Every year the 'Indemnity Act' was passed by which they forgave all those who were opposed by the Anglican church. People of England started to regard other faiths.

d) Freedom of the Press

Whig removed all the restrictions imposed on the press by passing the Licencing Act.

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e) Economic prosperity

Whigs lowered the rate of interest and by setting up a 'Sinking Fund' decreased the National Debt. Most of the taxes on raw materials were decreased and the import and export duty on most of the articles was abolished. South-Sea company case was efficiently settled which enhanced the reputation of the Whigs. Hence, the country saw a great economic prosperity.

(f) Whigs as Traders and Industrialists

Many members of the Whig party were traders and industrialists who were keenly interested in the foreign trade and so they paid proper attention in strengthening the navy of the country. This resulted in England being victorious in the Seven Years' War and to establish many new colonies in the world.

g) Success of the foreign policy

Their successful foreign policy raised England among

the powerful Nations of Europe. The main achievements of their foreign policy were:

(i) The Treaty of Utrecht:

They established their naval supremacy in Europe.

(ii) Recognition of Hanoverian Succession:

The Whigs got the succession of the Hanoverian Kings.

DEMERITS OF WHIG OLIGARCHY

(1) Fall in Morality

Whigs were more earnest in the supremacy of their party than bringing any reforms in the Parliament. They made use of all the resources at their disposal to maintain their oligarchy. Bribery, undue profits and other ills became the usual ~~(trend)~~ trend. The high posts were not susceptible to competent persons but to favorities. Thus, there came a fall in morality of the English.

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b) Fall in the Morality of the Church

Whigs began to appoint their party favourites to various offices. In this way, true religious scholars and men of pure and high ideals could not find any way to these religious posts. Naturally the people lost their confidence and respect for the Church.

CONCLUSION

Whig oligarchy was somewhat a blessing in disguise for the British Political system. It brought stability; however, due to some immateriality of the British it had a few demerits too. Robert Walpole helped the Whig party establish supremacy.

"The Whig Oligarchy brought constitutional monarchy in England"

~ P.C. Thomas

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